



Sidanth Rajagopal

Partner

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OVERVIEW

Sidanth Rajagopal is a partner in the London finance team and is a practice group coordinator of the global banking and asset finance group. He is part of the aviation finance team operating out of London and Dubai. As an aviation finance lawyer, he is recognised as having experience in a broad range of complex cross-border aviation finance matters. Sidanth provides key commercial and technical advice throughout the deal cycle, but counsels clients in the following key areas; financing, leasing, purchasing, restructuring and repossessions for both commercial aircraft (fleet and individual) and business jets and also works alongside clients on equity capital markets and debt capital market transactions. This experience includes innovative financing structures involving Sharia-compliant aircraft leasing, insurance-backed finance, PDP financing and structuring majority share purchases in AIM listed entities, setting up funds focused on aviation assets and other aviation business acquisitions.

Although experienced across various geographies, Sidanth is best known as a prominent aviation finance lawyer in South East Asia, the Middle East and Africa. Correspondingly, Sidanth global clientele include emerging and established airlines, leasing companies, private equity investors, and asset financing banks.

Sidanth has been recognised by leading aviation industry commentators. In recognition of his practice, he is the recipient of Airline Economics 40 under 40 in 2018. Earmarked as a thought leader in the field, commentary on him included, 'A flock of satisfied clients wrote of his "tremendous commercial understanding on the issues which leads to innovative solutions" as well as his dedication to "deliberate improvement" and "progressive excellence". Sidanth is also named in Legal 500, Indian Business Law Journal, Asia Law Leading Lawyers and Who's Who Legal. Sidanth's market insights is consistently solicited by the aviation industry and he regularly speaks at industry conferences and contributes to industry publications.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Prior to joining the firm, Sidanth was a partner in the London office of an international law firm, where he concentrated his practice on aviation finance. He has also been a partner at the Dubai and New Delhi offices of an international law firm.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Listed in Airline Economics 40 under 40, 2018
- Leading lawyer in Aviation, Expert Guides - Aviation, 2014 - 2019
- Leading lawyer in Aviation, Who's Who Legal, 2012
- Leading lawyer in Aviation, Asia Law Leading Lawyers, 2013
- Leading lawyer in Aviation, India Business Law Journal 2015- 2018
- Leading lawyer in Aviation, Corporate Jet Investor
- Leading lawyer in Aviation, Corporate Jet Investor

EDUCATION

- LL.B., University of Pune, 2005
- B.S.L., University of Pune, 2003

ADMISSIONS

- Solicitor of the Senior Courts of England and Wales

LANGUAGES

- Hindi
- Tamil (India)

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP POWERED BY HUB

- 5 November 2020, The Accession of the State of Qatar to the Cape Town Convention (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 18 May 2020, COVID-19: Aviation Bailout - An Overview of Aviation Industry Stimulus Programs Globally (*Webinar*)
- 23 March 2020, COVID-19: Hard Landing: How the Coronavirus Shutdown May Infect Global Aviation Finance (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 18 January 2019, Cleared to Land: Aviation Newsletter

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- "Letters of Intent: Are you (un)intentionally bound?" *Airline Economics*, April-May 2018

- Airline Economics: The Indian National Aviation Policy 2016: An Analysis.

NEWS & EVENTS

- 3 November 2021, K&L Gates, Lawyers Recognized in 2022 Chambers UK Guide (*Rankings & Recognitions*)
- 6 October 2021, K&L Gates Ranked in Nearly 30 Categories in the 2022 Legal 500 UK Guide (*Rankings & Recognitions*)
- 1 July 2020, K&L Gates Aviation Finance Practice Recognized with Multiple Deal of the Year Honors During *Airfinance Journal Awards* (*Rankings & Recognitions*)
- 19 July 2018, K&L Gates Advises VietJet on Nearly \$20 Billion Boeing, Airbus Aircraft Orders (*Noteworthy Work*)
- 30 January 2017, K&L Gates Boosts Aviation Finance Practice with London Team Hire (*Press Release*)

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Aviation Finance
- U.S. National Security Law and Policy

INDUSTRIES

- Aviation
- Transportation and Logistics

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Advised on the sale and leaseback of 2 Boeing 737-MAX8s equipped with LEAP-1B27 Engine to SKY Aviation International Limited.
- Advised in relation to Operating Lease of 5 737-800 Aircraft from Aircastle.
- Advised on the refinancing of MSN 27253 to Veling Limited.
- Advised on the sale and leaseback of one Airbus A380 Aircraft to Emirates.
- Advised on the financing, purchase and leaseback of 3 Airbus A330 Aircraft to AAX.
- Advised on the PDP and sale and leaseback of up to 4 737 MAX Aircraft to Avolon.
- Advised in relation to the sale and leaseback of 2 Boeing 737-800 Aircraft by Aurum.
- Advised in relation to the sale and leaseback of two 737 MAX Aircraft to FPG Amentum.
- Advising on the lease of 2 ATR72-600 Aircraft to Air Tahiti.

- Advised in relation to sale and leaseback of 8 Bombardier A400 Aircraft with Chorus Aviation Capital Limited.
- Advised in relation to the novation of MSN 40260 from Pembroke Aircraft Leasing 2 Ltd. To JPL Stratos Leasing Ltd.
- Advised in relation to Operating Lease of 2 737-800 Aircraft from Castlake.
- Advised on the purchase of one 737-800 Aircraft on lease to TUI Travel Aviation Finance Ltd.
- Advised in relation to lease of two Boeing 737-800 Aircraft to TWC Aviation Capital Limited.
- Advised on the operating lease of two Boeing 737-800 Aircraft from Alterna Aircraft VB Limited.
- Advised in relation to the novation of Boeing 737 with MSN 60963 - Goshawk.
- Advised on aircraft refinancing with Seeb Limited.
- Advised on the purchase and leasing of one (1) Boeing 737-300 Freighter Aircraft with MSN 29333 to ASL Airlines France S.A.
- Advised on the administration of Virgin Atlantic.
- Advising on the lease of 2 ATR72-600 Aircraft to Bestfly.
- Advised on the sale of 3 B777 Aircraft to Skywind.
- Advised on the private placement EETC.
- Advised in relation to Apollo Aviation Management Ltd Novation.
- Advised in relation to lease of 3 B737-800 Aircrafts from Dubai Aerospace Enterprise.
- Advised in relation to Chapter 11 Process of Miami Air International.
- Advised on the trademark dispute brought by Vueling Airlines.
- Advised on the sale of MSN 27253 Airframe and Engine 51429.
- Advised on the sale of 1 Rolls Royce Trent 892 Engine with ESN 51066.
- Advised on the financing and sale and leaseback of 1 A380 to Emirates.
- Advised on the purchase of two Boeing 777-300 Aircraft with MSN 29063 and MSN 29062 to Emirates.
- Advised on the sale of 2 Boeing 777-300 Aircraft with MSN 29063 and 29062 to Apollo.
- Advised on the Delivery of 5 Boeing 777-200 Aircraft to VIM Airways.
- Advised on the PDP and sale and leaseback of 5 B737 MAX8 Aircraft to CDB.
- Advised on the sale and leaseback of 3 737 MAX Aircraft to BOC.
- Advised on the operating lease of one 737 Freighter Aircraft to Spectre.

- Advised on the lease of five 737 MAX-8 Aircraft from CDB Aviation.
- Advised on the sale and leaseback of an engine to ELFC.
- Advised on the novation of the lease agreement in relation to one (1) Boeing 737-800 with MSN 36368 to BBAM.
- Advised on the sale and leaseback and PDP financing of 4 737 MAX Aircraft to ICBC.
- Advised on Fleet Management Issues.
- Advised in relation to the delisting of Fastjet.
- Advised in relation to purchase of Fastjet Zimbabwe.
- Advised in relation of the purchase of the entire shares owned by Ferrovial in FMMC.
- Advised in relation to the purchase agreement between Qatar Airways and B/E Aerospace Limited.
- Advised on loan to Protection Group International and other advice.
- Advised on the dispute with Pakistan International Airlines Corporation re Hard Block Capacity Agreement.
- Advising on the financing and sale and leaseback of 1 A380 and 2 B777 Aircrafts to Emirates.
- Advised on the acquisition of Plane Business Limited.
- Advised on Boeing MAX PA (review of contract and advice re potential litigation).
- Advised on operation and management agreement in relation to one Gulfstream G650 Aircraft with MSN 6082.
- Advised Empire on Operations and Maintenance Agreements.
- Advised in relation to Skai Air Holdings re 1 Global Express XRS.
- Advised in relation to the lease restructuring with Avolon.
- Advised on the Lender Transfer for MSN 40251 with MUFG Bank Ltd.
- Advised on the refinancing of 3 B737-800 Aircraft to Bank of Communication China.
- Advised on the AFIC financing for 3 Boeing 737 MAX Aircraft with Marsh.
- Advised on the acquisition of the PK Air Finance Loan Portfolio.
- Advised on the proposed financing of the acquisition of 1 Bombardier Global 6000 Aircraft with MSN 9767.
- Advised on the Fastjet Capital Raise
- Advised DHL Aviation Americas, Inc./Lease of one ATR42-300F Aircraft with MSN 228.